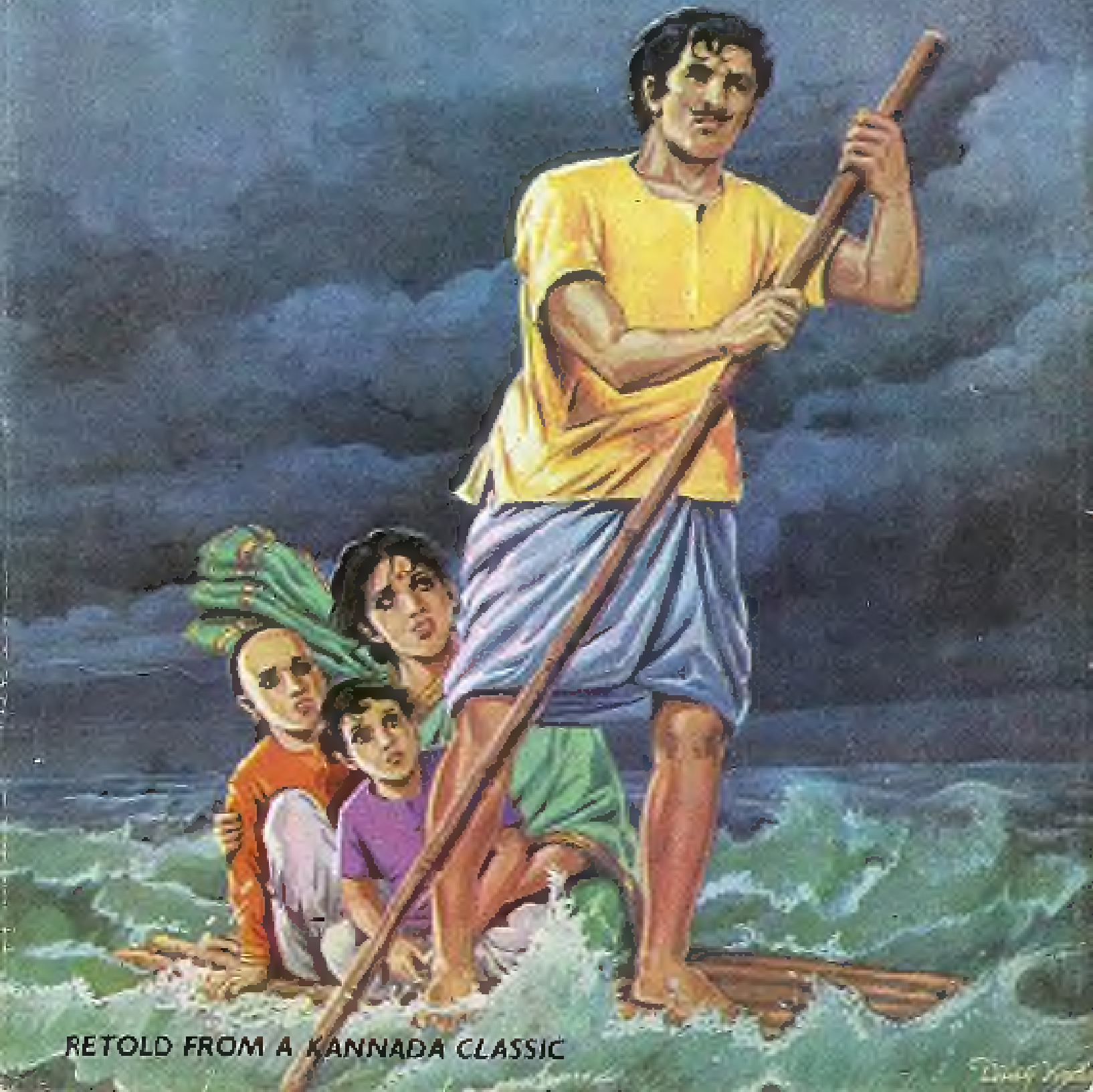




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The taming of Gulla



RETOLD FROM A KANNADA CLASSIC

Deepa Vaidya

Where people live, work and play together, be it in the family, the school, the office, the village or the country, there are bound to be differences. The wise ones overcome the differences, learn to give and take and to live in harmony. But not all are wise. So, very often, petty quarrels are blown out of proportion and pursued indefinitely. One party tries to destroy another and eventually both pay a heavy price.

This is the theme of the story retold in this Chitra Katha. It is a true story which took place over sixty years ago. The descendants of Ayyu and Gulla continue to live at Jalahalli.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಐಯಂಗರ್

Sd/-

Gorur Ramaswami Iyengar

Shri Gorur Ramaswami Iyengar (1904-), a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award is a distinguished Kannada author. He has to his credit over fifty works. They include short stories, novels and folklore. This Amar Chitra Katha is an adaptation of 'Bhootayyasa Maga Ayyu', which has become something of a classic.

Editor

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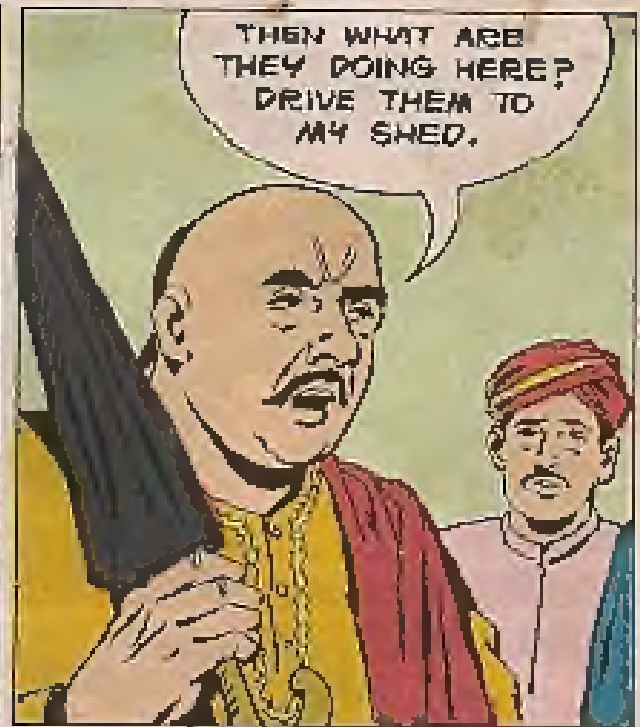
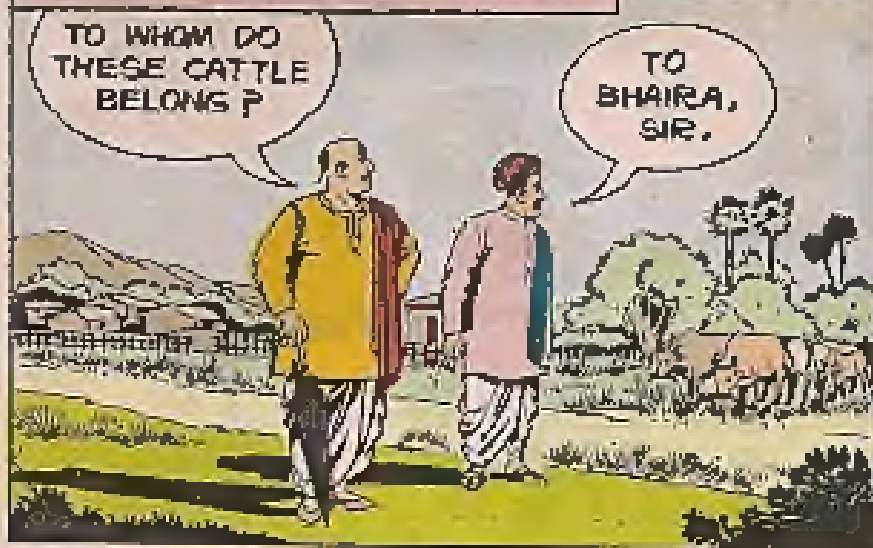
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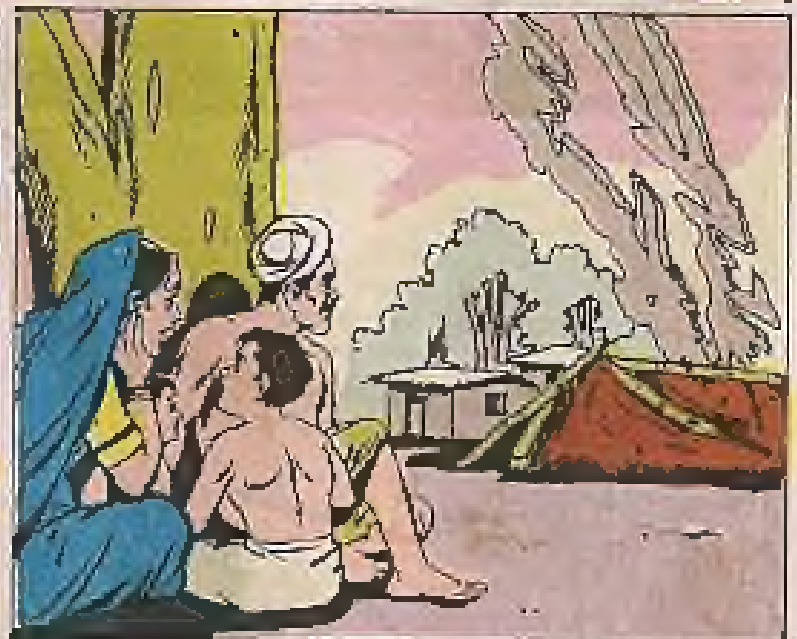
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THE TAMING OF GULLA

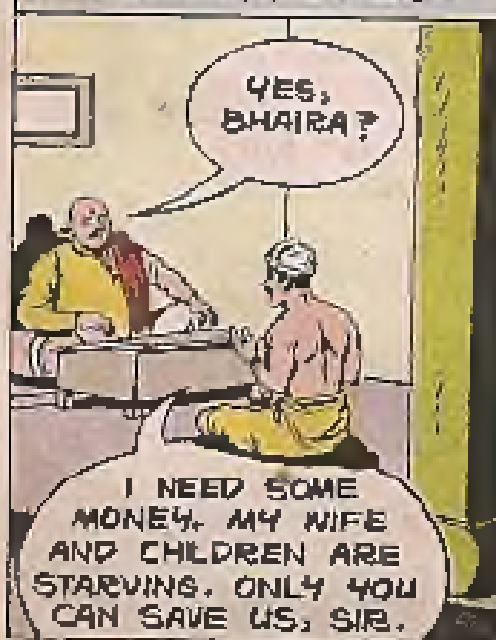
BHOOTAYYA, THE SAKHAR OF JALAHALLI, WAS A MERCILESS TYRANT.



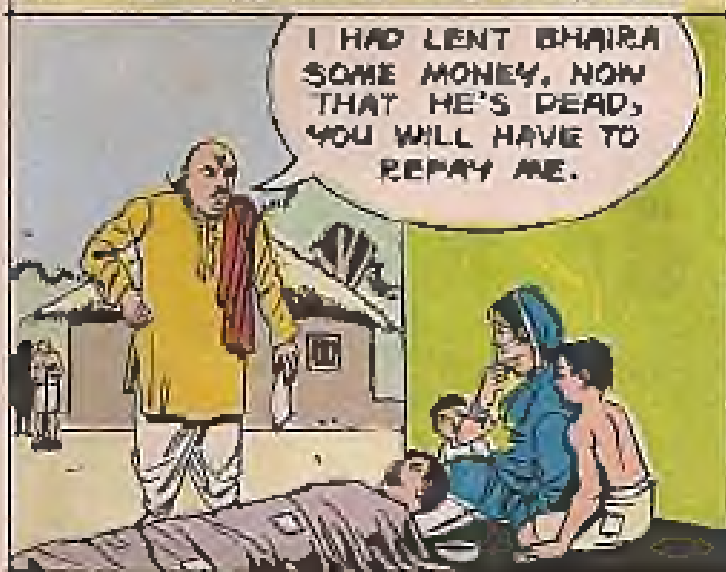
THAT NIGHT —



A FEW DAYS LATER —

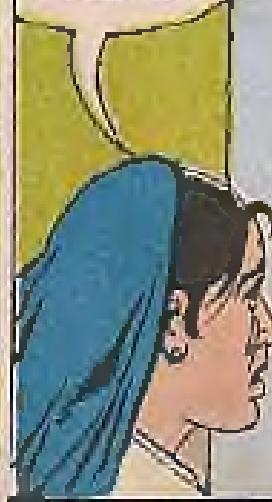


A FEW MONTHS LATER BHAIRA FELL ILL AND DIED. HIS WIDOW HAD A VISITOR.



I HAD LENT BHAIRA SOME MONEY, NOW THAT HE'S DEAD, YOU WILL HAVE TO REPAY ME.

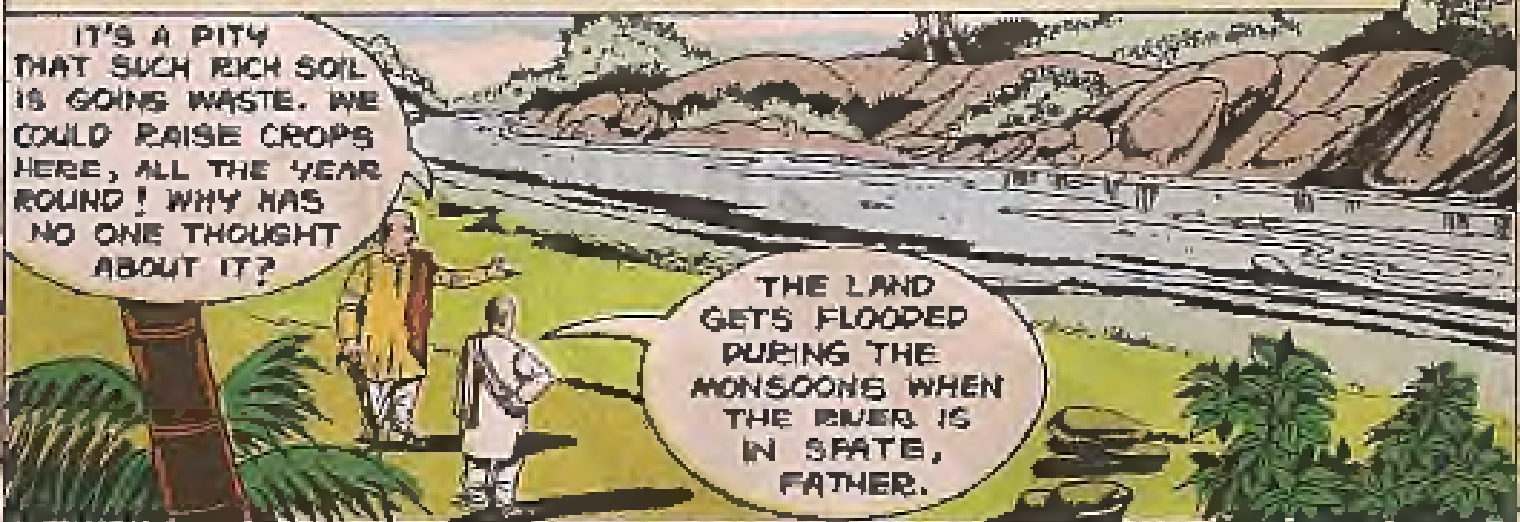
I'M SORRY, SIR. I DON'T HAVE EVEN A COWRIE.



THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP THIS HUT AND ALSO SURRENDER YOUR LAND.



A FEW MILES FROM THE VILLAGE THERE WAS A TRACT OF FERTILE LAND. ONE DAY AS BHOOTAYYA WAS WALKING THROUGH IT WITH HIS SON RYU—



IT'S A PITY THAT SUCH RICH SOIL IS GOING WASTE. WE COULD RAISE CROPS HERE, ALL THE YEAR ROUND! WHY HAS NO ONE THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

THE LAND GETS FLOODED DURING THE MONSOONS WHEN THE RIVER IS IN SPATE, FATHER.



THAT'S NO EXCUSE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BUILD A DAM THERE, AND LABOUR, AS YOU KNOW, COMES FREE.

THE VILLAGERS WERE ORDERED TO REPORT TO THE SITE AND WORK ROUND THE CLOCK.



THE DAM WAS SOON READY.



BHOOTAYYA THEN HAD A MANSION BUILT ON THE RECLAIMED LAND.



SOON AFTER, BHOOTAYYA FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. ON HIS DEATH-BED—

THE VILLAGERS ARE ALL RASCALS. SHOW THEM NO MERCY. IF YOU ARE CLEVER, YOU'LL MAKE THEM WORK FOR YOU FOR NOTHING.



THAT ROGUE KEMPA HAD BORROWED A SPOONFUL OF SALT...

FATHER, PLEASE.



SEE THAT... YOU RECOVER, THE... SA... LT...



THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS OF SAKHAR BHOOTAYYA.

THE VILLAGERS HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.



THE DEVIL IS DEAD! THIS IS THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE.

NOT YET, UNCLE. THE DEVIL IS NO DOUBT DEAD. BUT HIS SON IS STILL ALIVE.



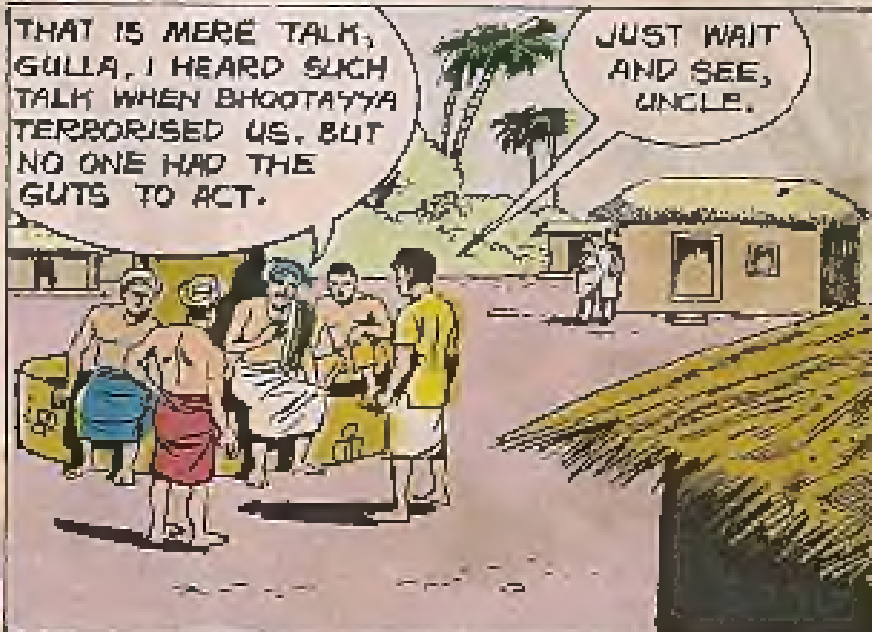
THE SPEAKER WAS GULLA, A PROUD YOUNG FARMER.

YOU ARE RIGHT, GULLA. A SNAKE BEGETS ONLY SNAKES.



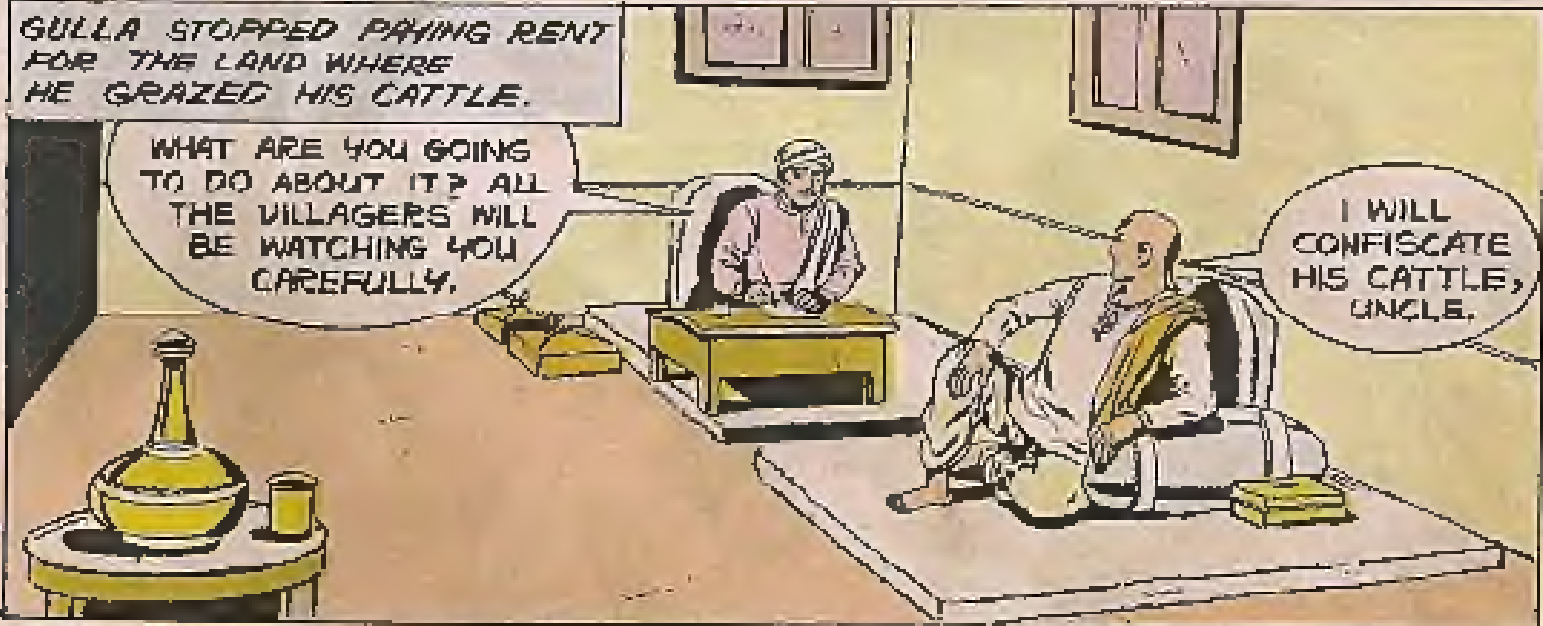
AND THE YOUNG SNAKE MUST BE CRUSHED BEFORE HE RAISES HIS HOOD.

THAT IS MERE TALK, GULLA. I HEARD SUCH TALK WHEN BHOOTAYYA TERRORISED US. BUT NO ONE HAD THE GUTS TO ACT.



JUST WAIT AND SEE, UNCLE.

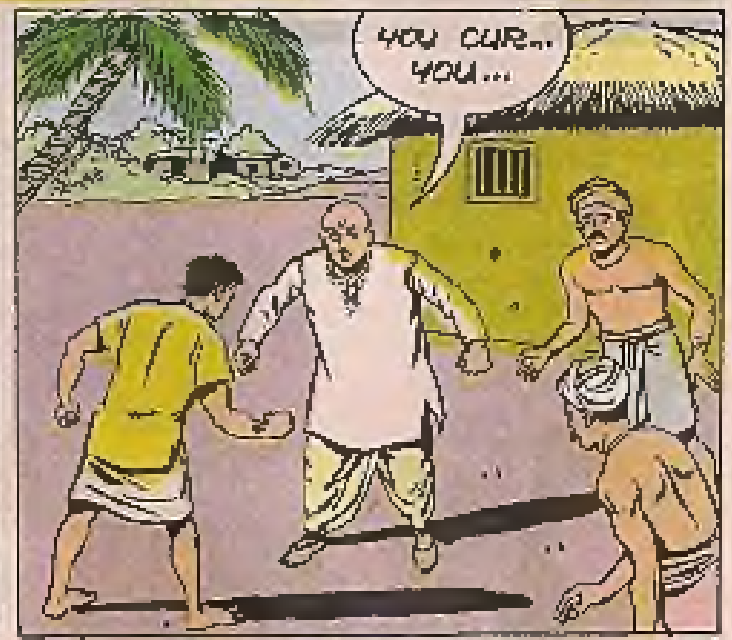
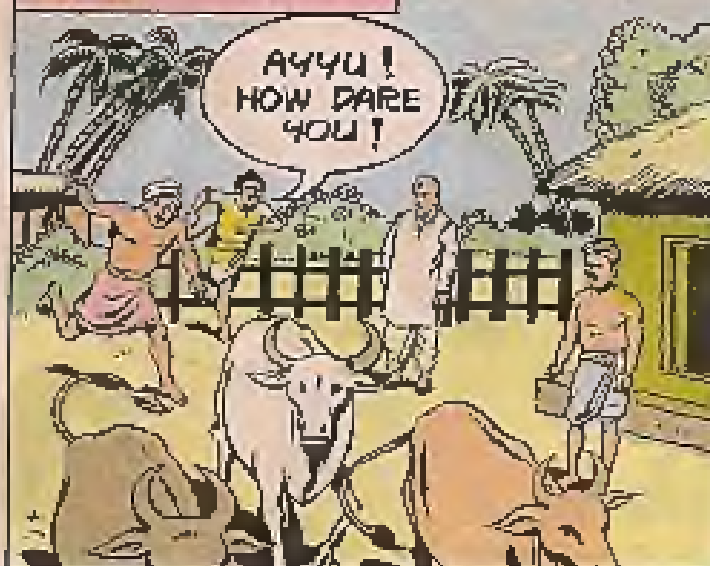
GULLA STOPPED PAYING RENT FOR THE LAND WHERE HE GRAZED HIS CATTLE.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL BE WATCHING YOU CAREFULLY.

I WILL CONFISCATE HIS CATTLE, UNCLE.

EVEN AS THE CATTLE WERE BEING
DRIVEN AWAY—



THE VILLAGERS HAD TO
SEPARATE THE TWO.



AYYU ACTED SWIFTLY.

UNCLE, FILE TWO SUITS AGAINST GULLA— A CIVIL SUIT TO RECOVER THE MONEY HE OWES ME AND A CRIMINAL SUIT FOR ASSAULTING ME.

GOOD, AYYU. YOU ARE NOW TALKING LIKE YOUR WORTHY FATHER.

GULLA WENT TO THE CITY AND ENGAGED A LAWYER.

SIR, YOU'LL HAVE TO WIN THIS CASE FOR ME. HERE ARE FIVE HUNDRED RUPEES.

WE'LL CERTAINLY WIN THE CASE. BUT, WE WILL NEED MORE MONEY.

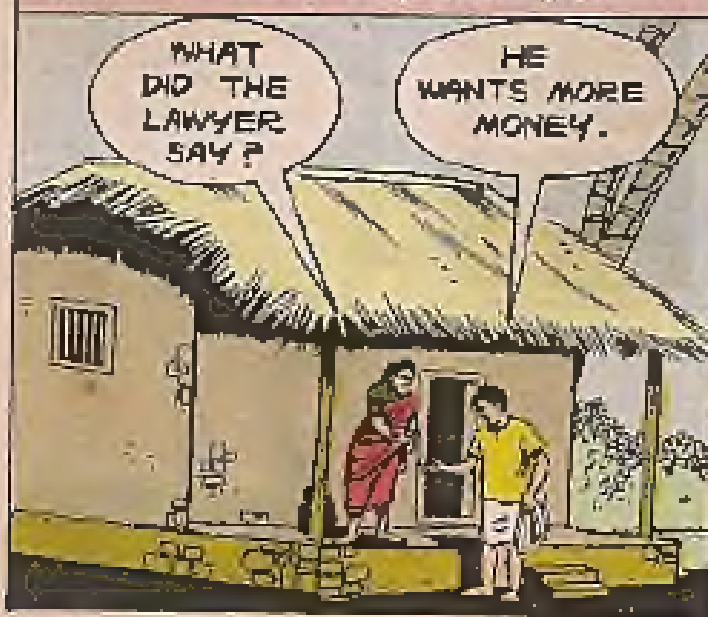
THE CASE DRAGGED ON. GULLA TOOK HIS WIFE'S ORNAMENTS...

...AND SOLD THEM...

...TO PAY HIS LAWYER.

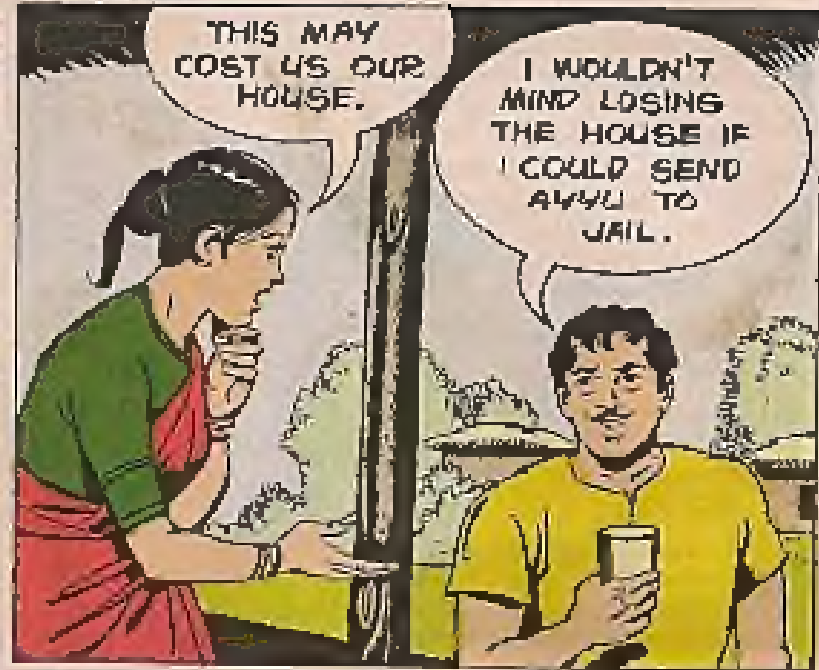
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, MY FRIEND. WE NEED MORE... MUCH MORE...

GULLA'S WIFE WAS WORRIED.



THIS MAY COST US OUR HOUSE.

I WOULDN'T MIND LOSING THE HOUSE IF I COULD SEND AYYU TO JAIL.



MEANWHILE AYYU HAD BOUGHT THE COURT'S PERMISSION TO AUCTION GULLA'S HOUSE TO COLLECT HIS DUES. AT GULLA'S HOUSE —



I'LL KILL HIM BEFORE HE AUCTIONS MY HOUSE.

OH, GOD!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, GULLA'S WIFE RAN TO AYYU'S HOUSE.

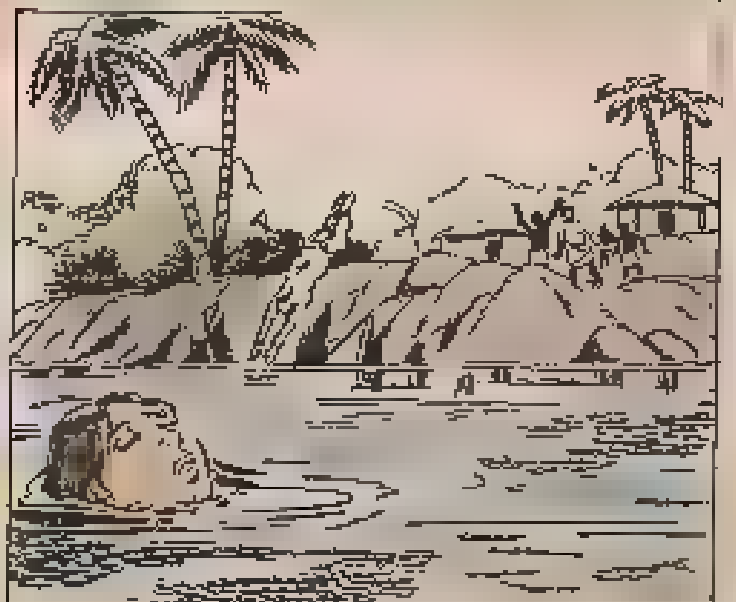
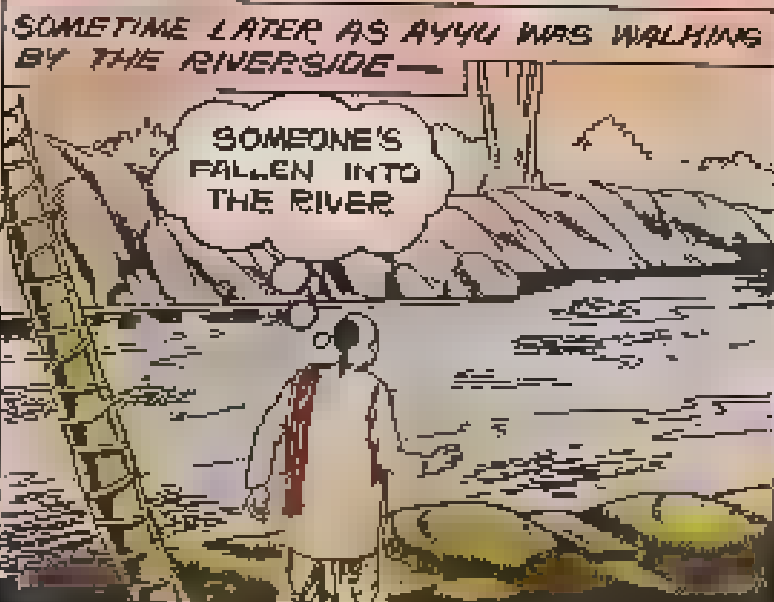
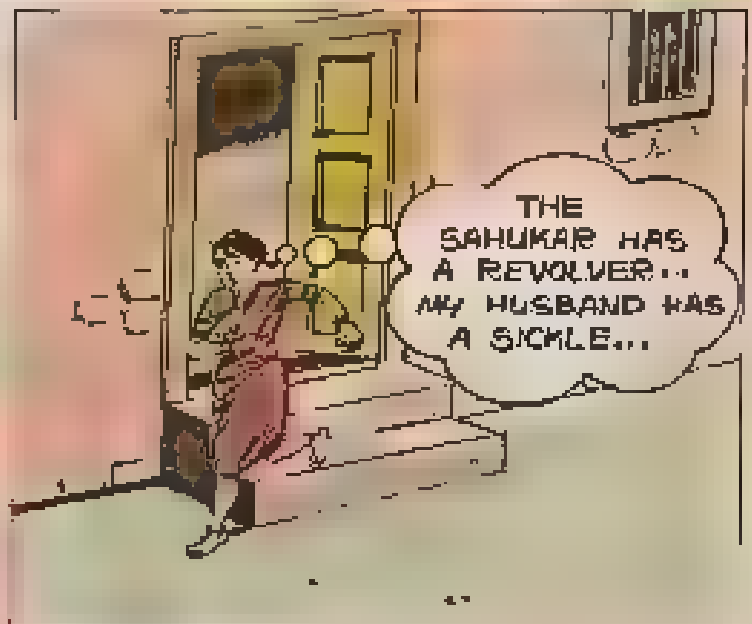
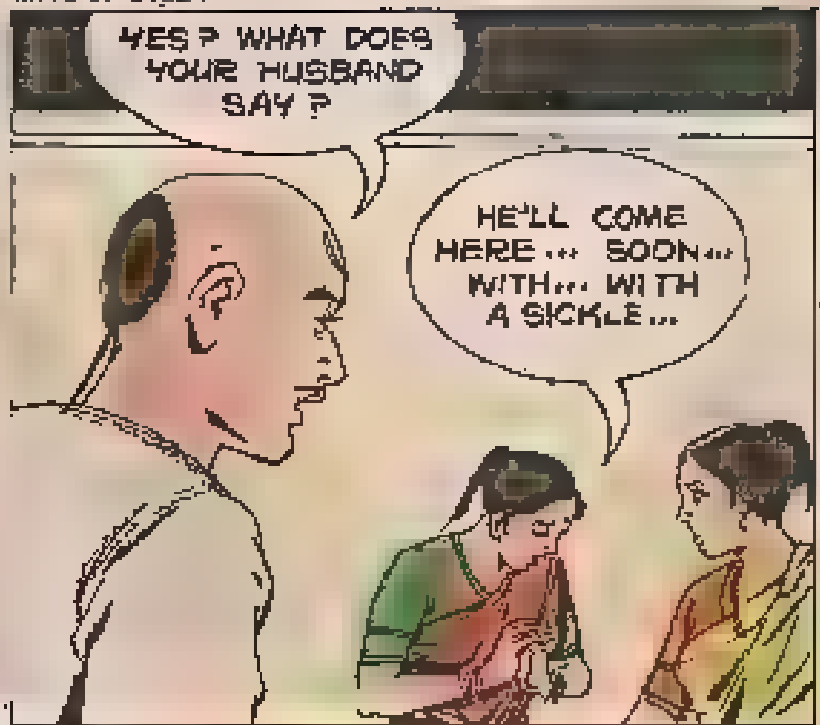
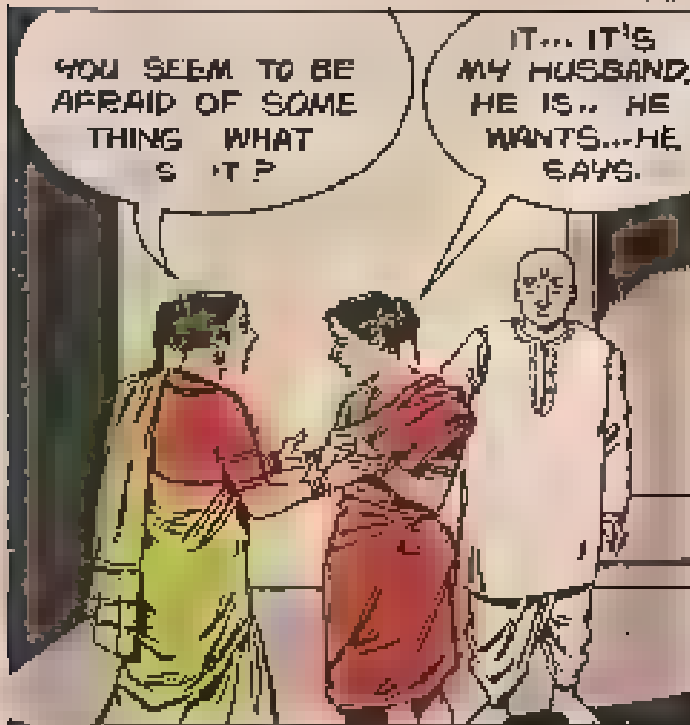


JUST THEN AYYU WALKED IN.

SIR, PLEASE LEAVE THE VILLAGE FOR JUST ONE DAY.

WHAT FOR?





LOOK! AYUN
IS TRYING TO
SAVE HER!



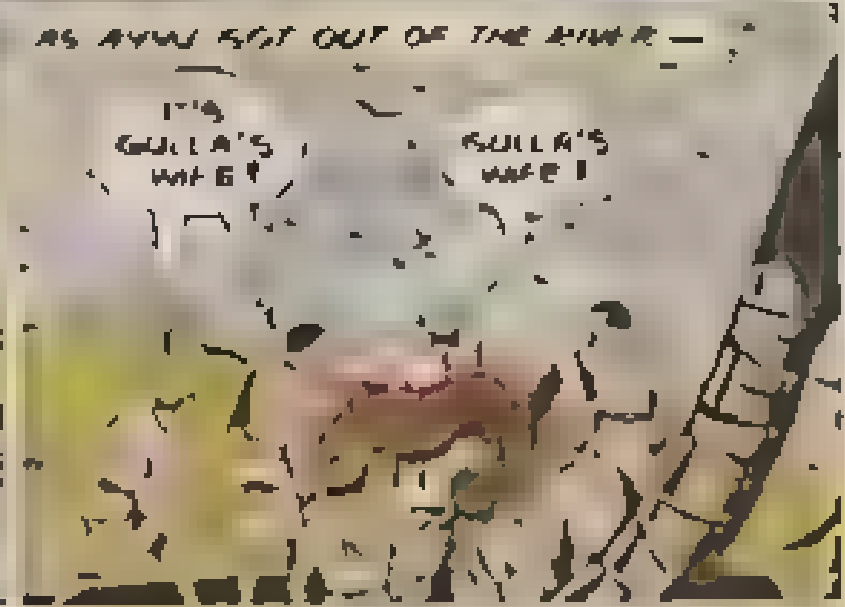
HE'S
GOT HOLD
OF HER!



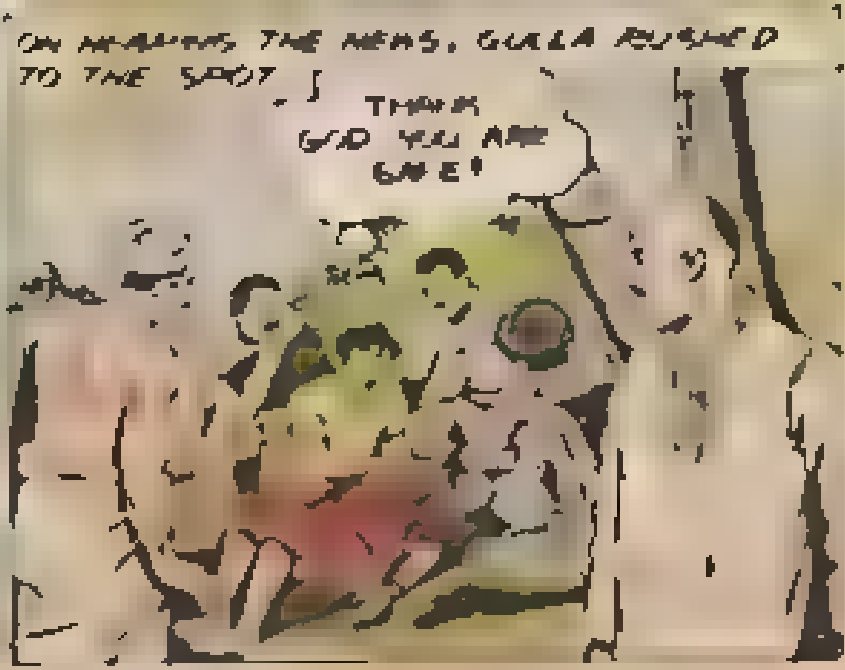
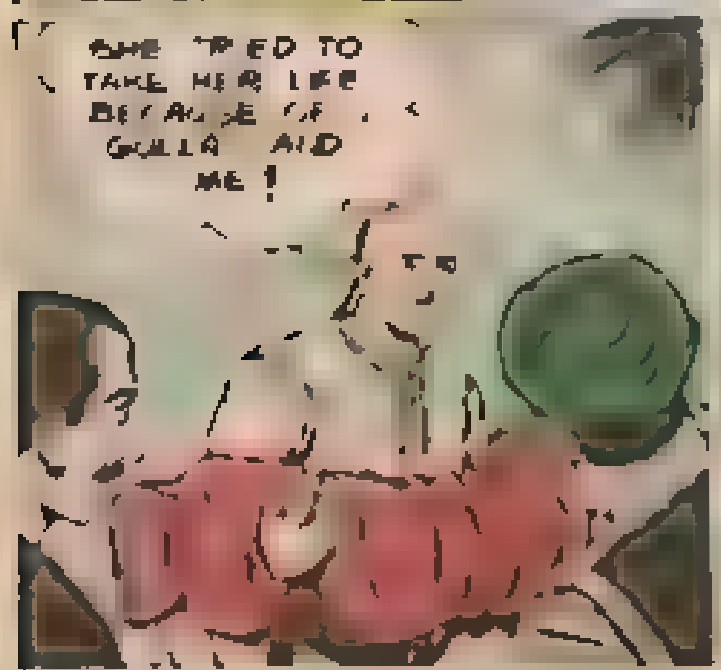
AS AYUN GOT OUT OF THE RIVER —

IT'S
GULLA'S
WIFE!

GULLA'S
WIFE!

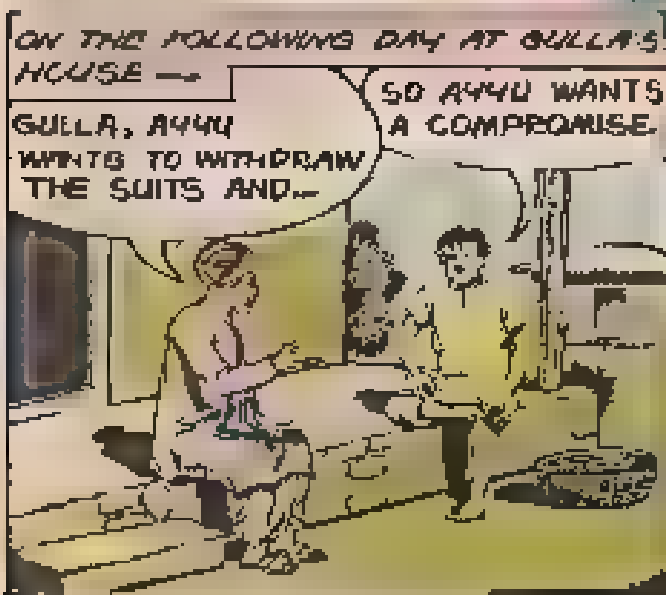
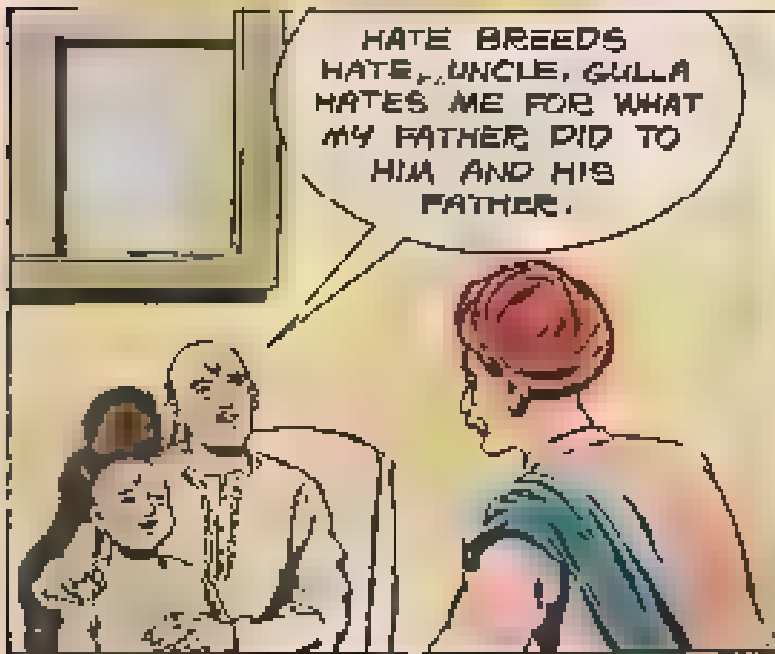
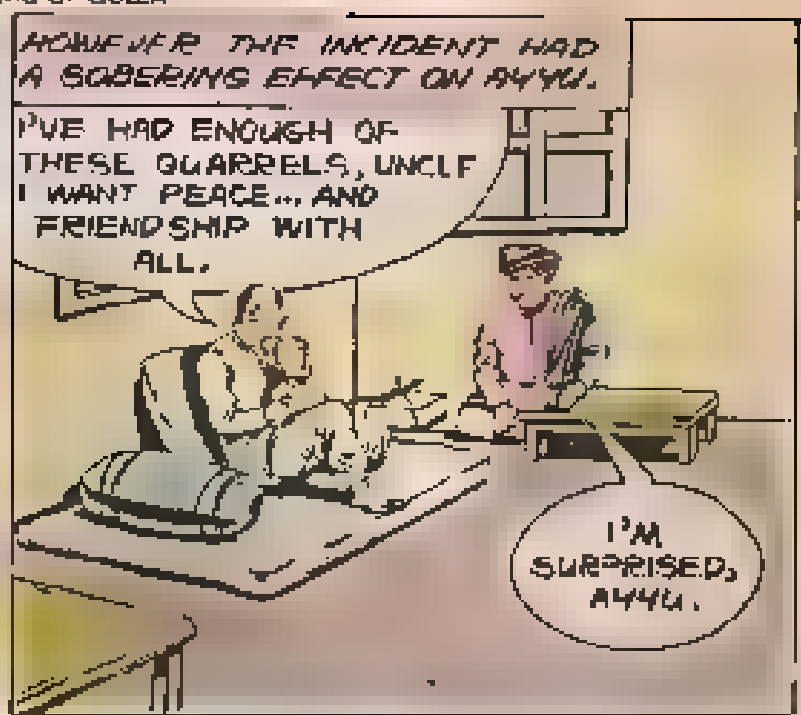


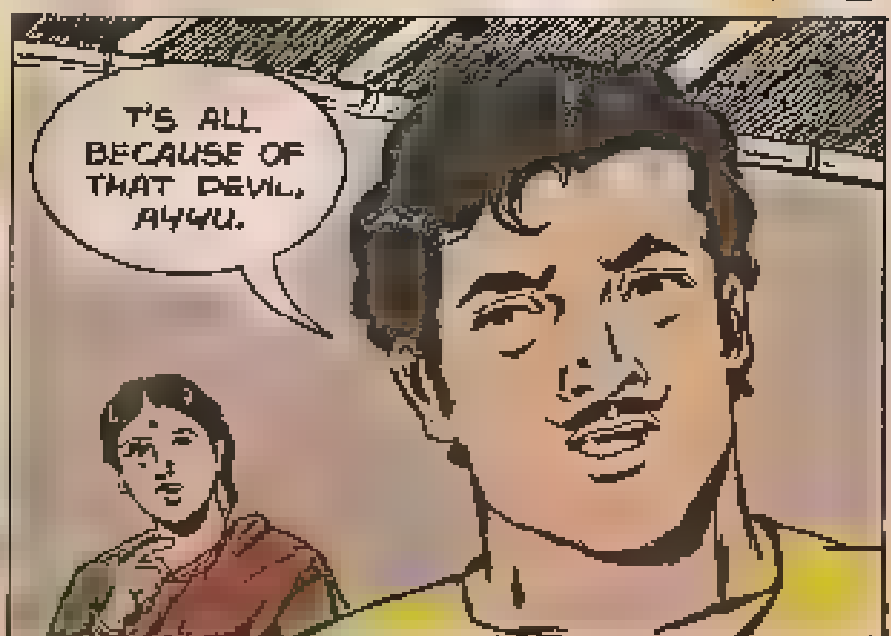
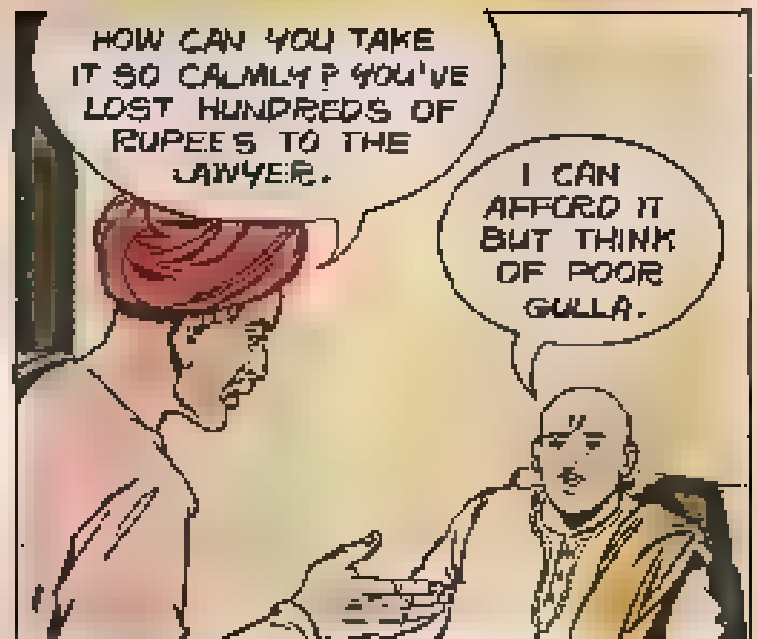
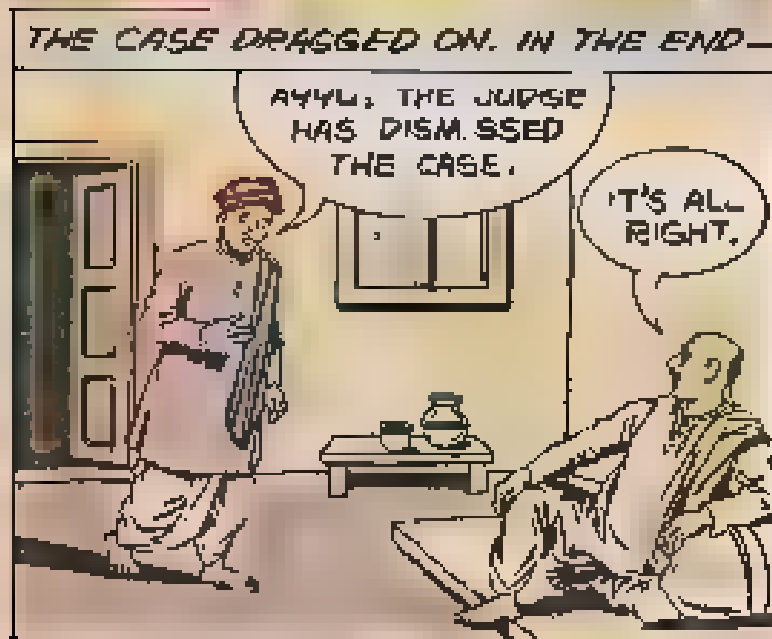
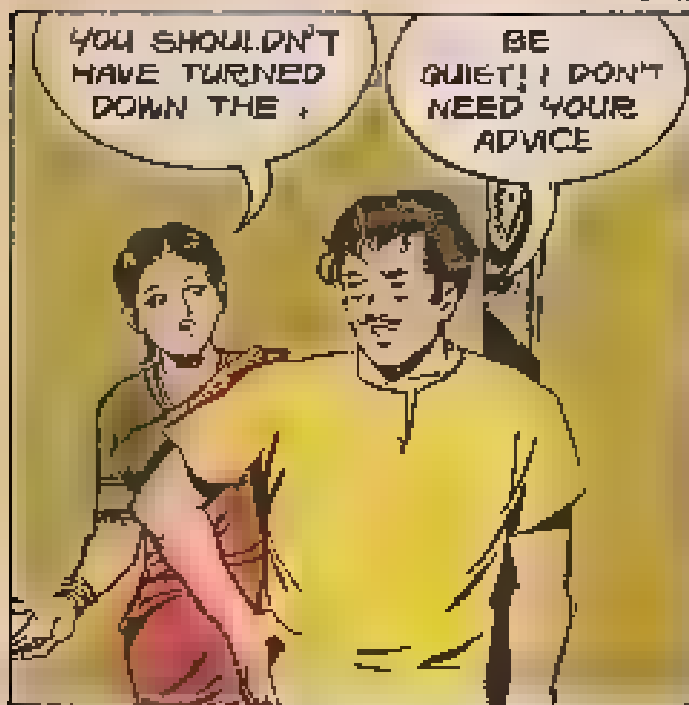
SHE TRIED TO
TAKE HER LIFE
BECAUSE OF
GULLA AND
ME!



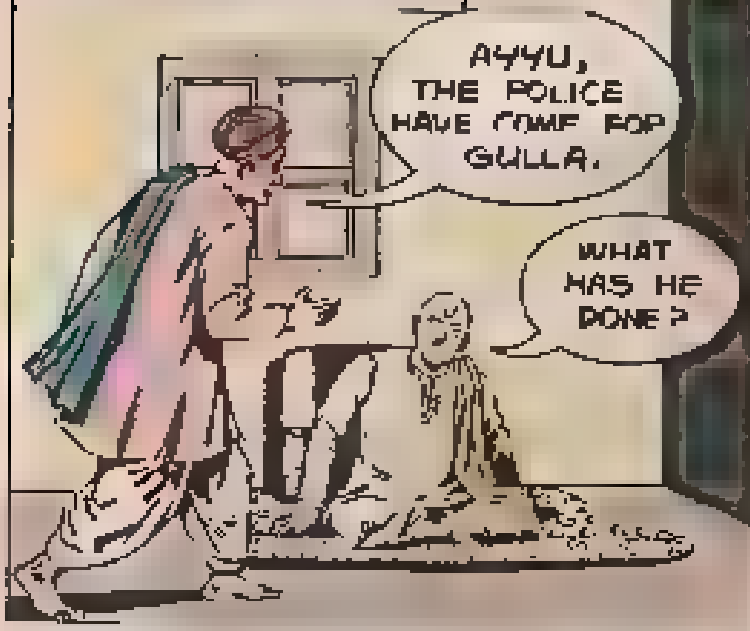
ON HEARING THE NEWS, GULLA RUSHED
TO THE SPOT.

THANK
GOD YOU ARE
SAFE!





A FEW DAYS LATER—



MEANWHILE IN FRONT OF GULLA'S HOUSE -



AYYU IGNORED GULLA AND
TURNED TO THE LAWYER.



GULLA BEGAN TO WORK FOR AMYU.



I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN LIKE GULLA — A MAN AS HARDWORKING AND HONEST

HE WORKS AS THOUGH HE IS POSSESSED.



A FEW MONTHS LATER —

GULLA, YOU HAVE CLEARED OFF YOUR DEBT TODAY.

ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T WANT ANY CHARITY FROM YOU.



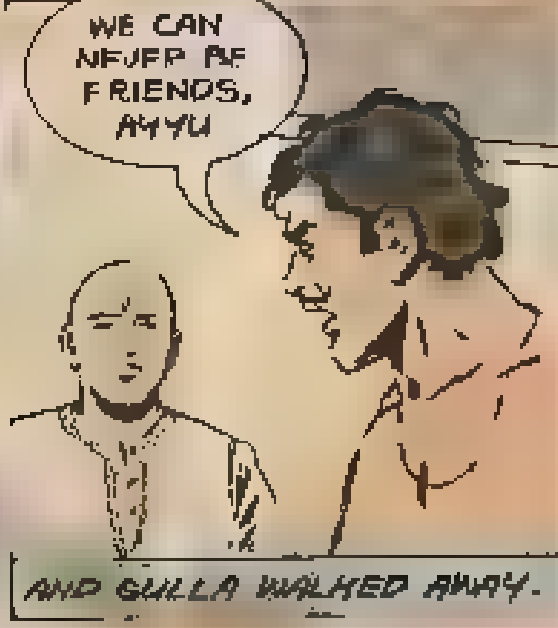
I AM SURE I'D NEED FOUR MEN TO DO THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE SINGLE HANDED.

LET'S BE FRIENDS, GULLA.

NO!



WE CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS, AMYU

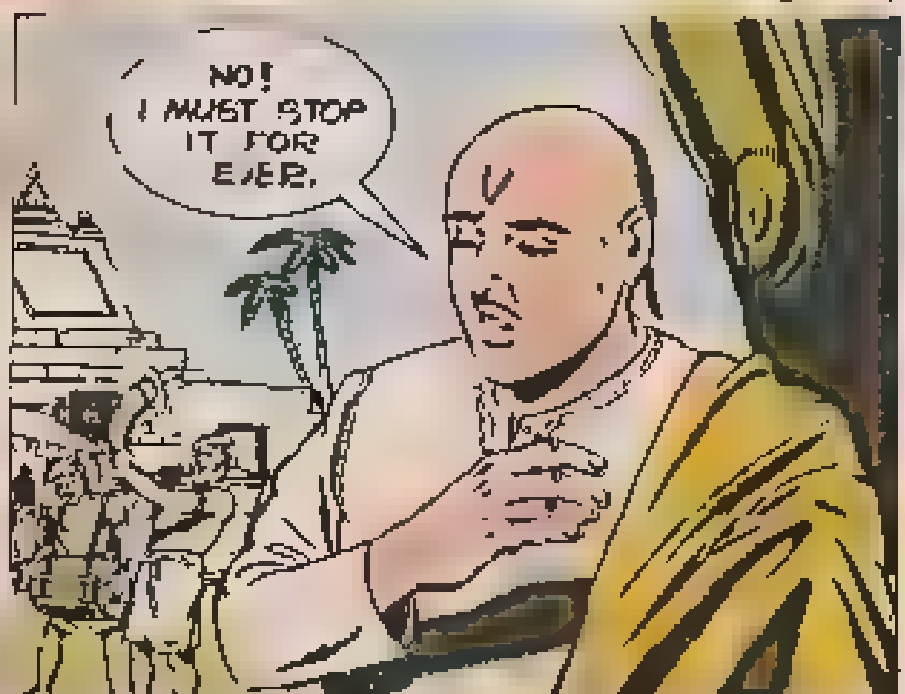


AND GULLA WALKED AWAY.

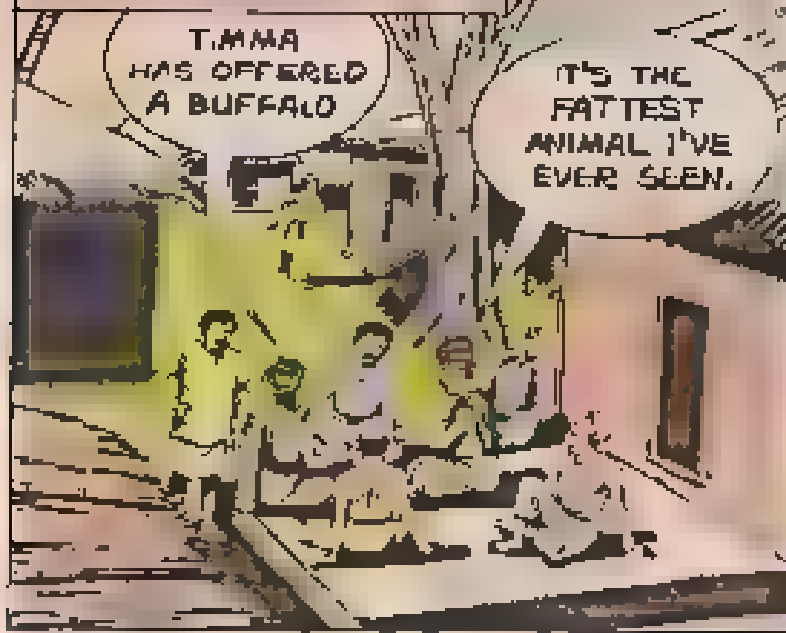
THEN CAME THE ANNUAL PUJA OF
MARRIAMMA, THE VILLAGE GODDESS.
AND AYYU SHIVERED AS HE HEARD
THE SOUND OF THE HORN



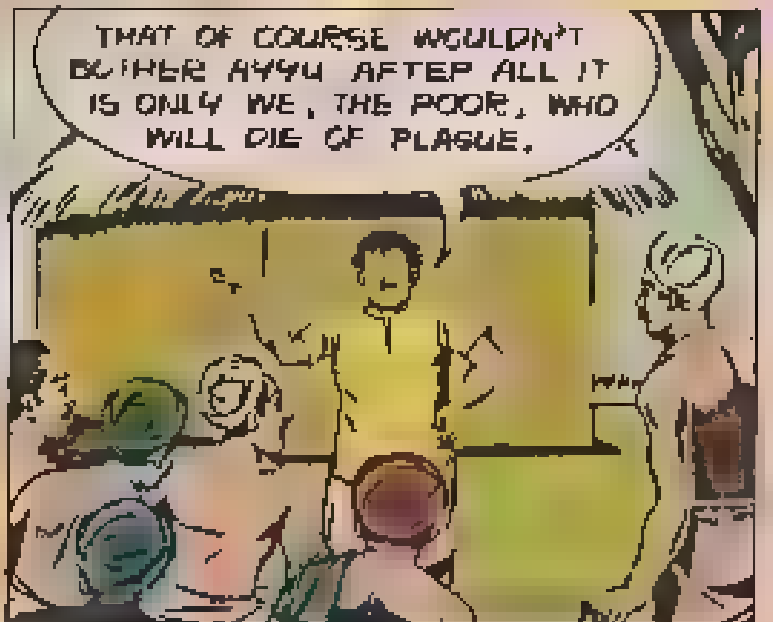
HIS MIND FLASHED BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD



MEANWHILE ALL THE VILLAGERS HAD ASSEMBLED TO DISCUSS THE PUJA TO BE PERFORMED AT THE TEMPLE.

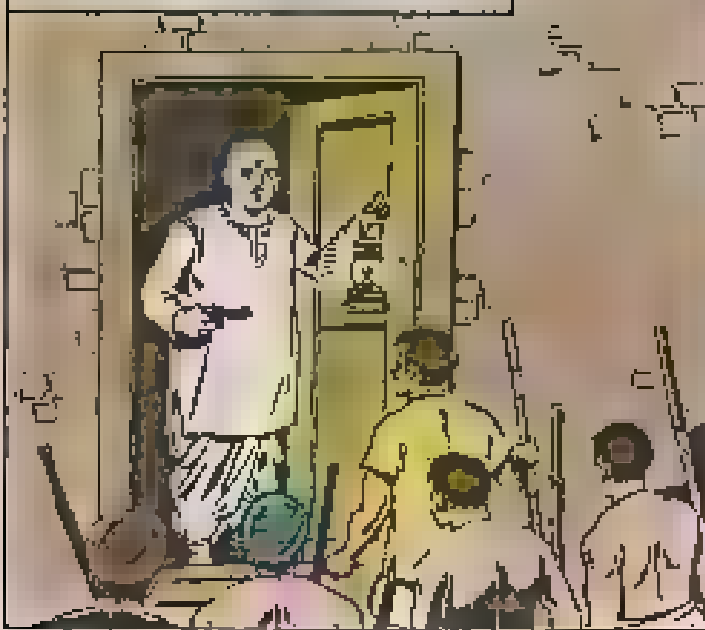


JUST THEN A MESSENGER CAME FROM AYYU'S HOUSE





AYYU OPENED THE DOOR.



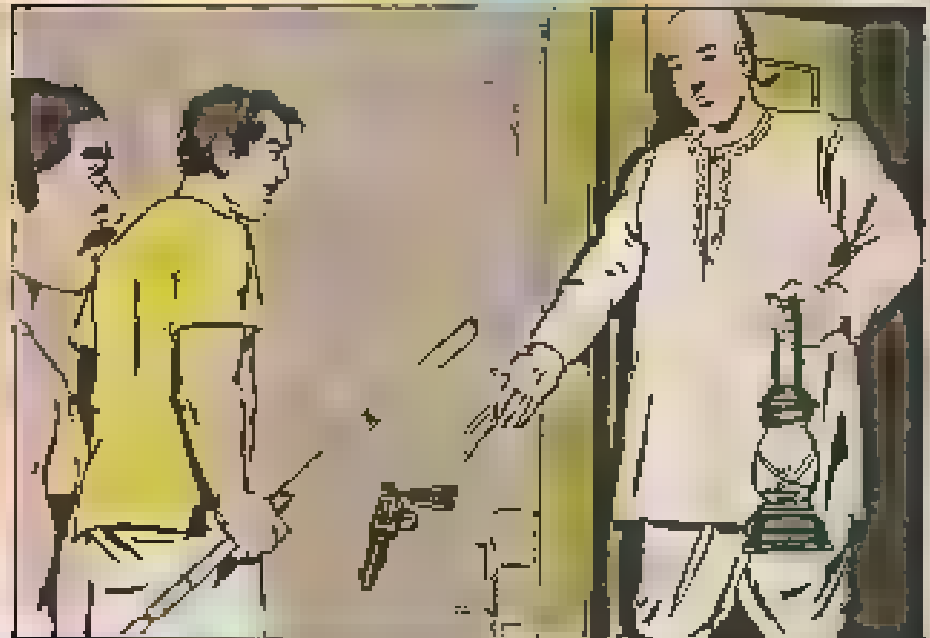
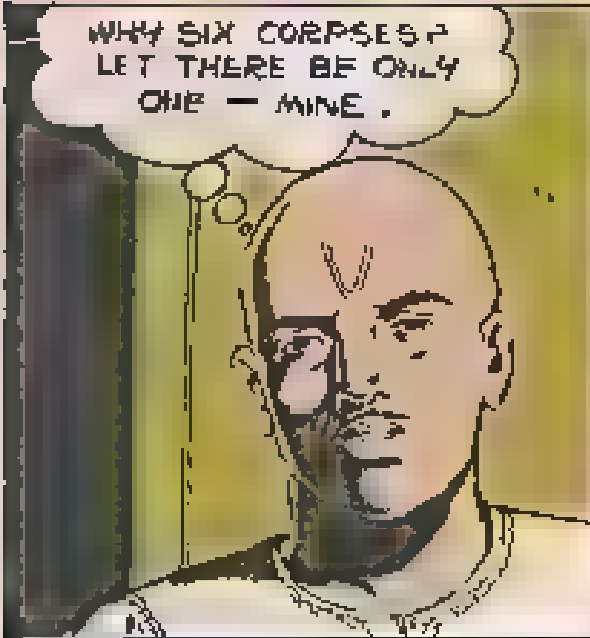
GULLA AND HE STARED AT EACH OTHER. NEITHER WAS WILLING TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.



AYYU HAS A REVOLVER? ALL THESE SHEEP WILL RUN AWAY NOW.

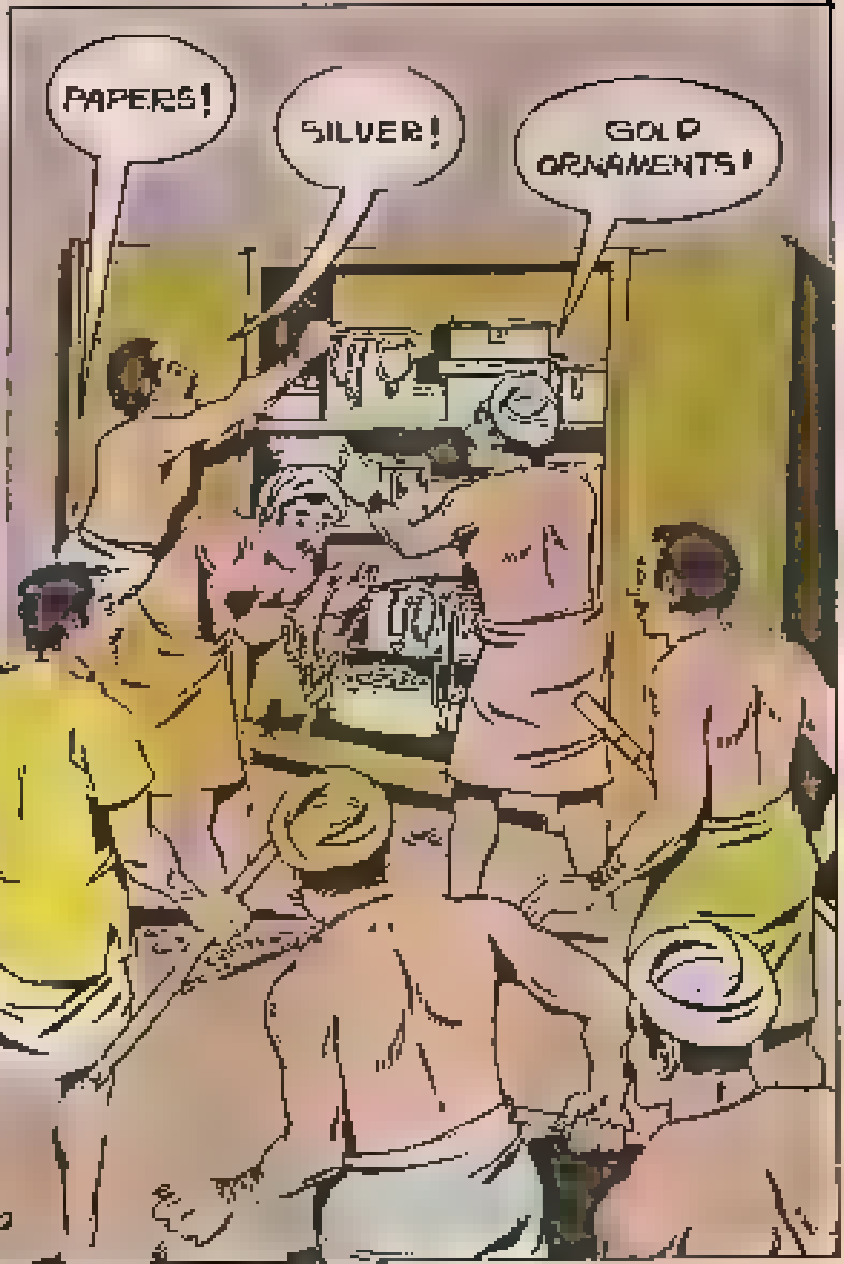
THERE ARE FIVE BULLETS I COULD KILL FIVE. THEN WHAT? WILL I BE THE SIXTH VICTIM?

WHY SIX CORPSES? LET THERE BE ONLY ONE - MINE.

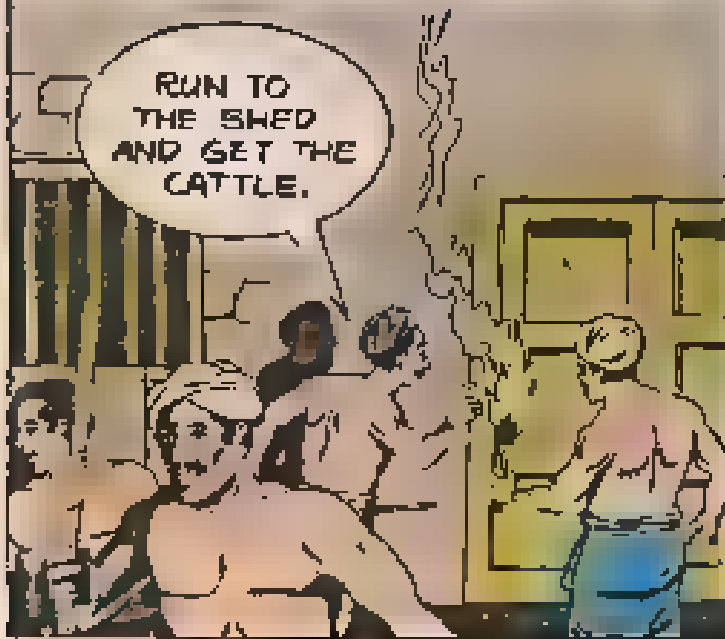


COME ON, LET'S GO IN





MEANWHILE OUTSIDE THE HOUSE—





ALTHOUGH AYYU DID NOT LODGE ANY COMPLAINT, THE NEWS REACHED THE DISTRICT POLICE. THEY CAME TO JALANALLI



THE INSPECTOR SENT FOR AYYU



AYYU LOOKED AT THE VILLAGERS



NO ONE SET OUR
HOUSE ON FIRE,
INSPECTOR.

WHAT!

THEN
HOW DID IT
HAPPEN?

A BULLOCK
UPSE THE
LANTERN IN
THE SHED. THAT'S
HOW IT ALL
BEGAN

PLEASE SET
THESE VILLAGERS
FREE THEY ARE
INNOCENT.

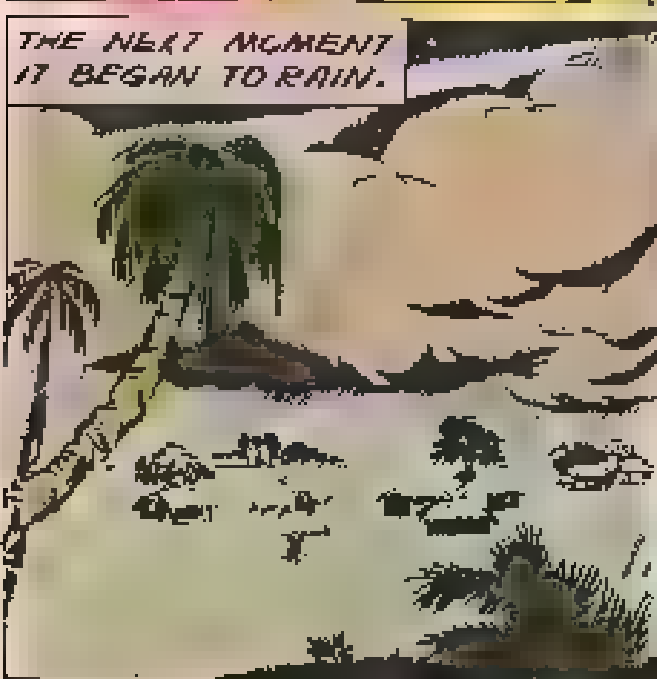
THE POLICE WENT AWAY THE VILLAGERS
CAME TO RAYU AND THANKED HIM
SILENTLY WITH FOLDED HANDS

RAYU LEFT WITHOUT A WORD.

HAVE
I MISUNDERSTOOD
HIM? I DON'T
KNOW. I DON'T
KNOW

THE VERY NEXT DAY RAYU HAD TO LEAVE
FOR MYSORE TO SEE HIS SISTER WHO WAS
SERIOUSLY ILL.

OH! WHAT
KIND OF MAN IS
RAYU? I WISH
I KNEW.





MEANWHILE AT AMMA'S HOUSE -

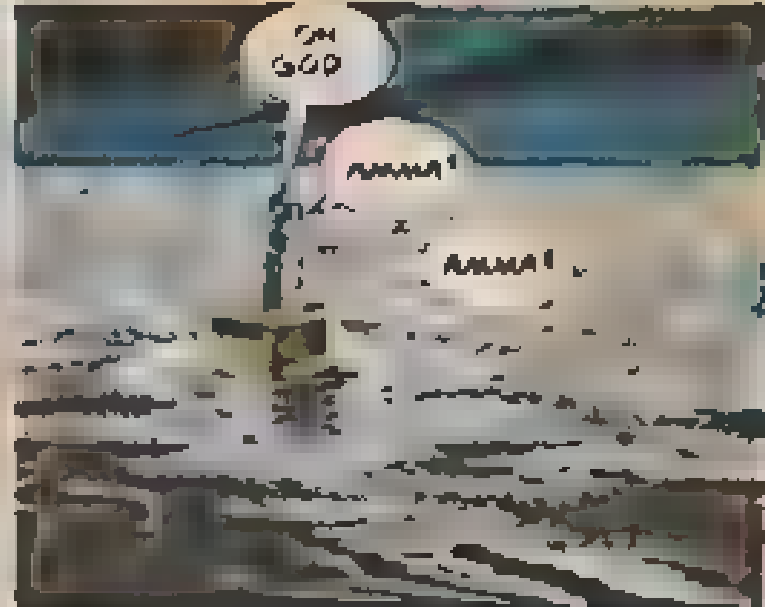
AMMA,
THE WATER
IS STILL
RISING.

COME
LET'S RUN
UP TO THE
TERRACE

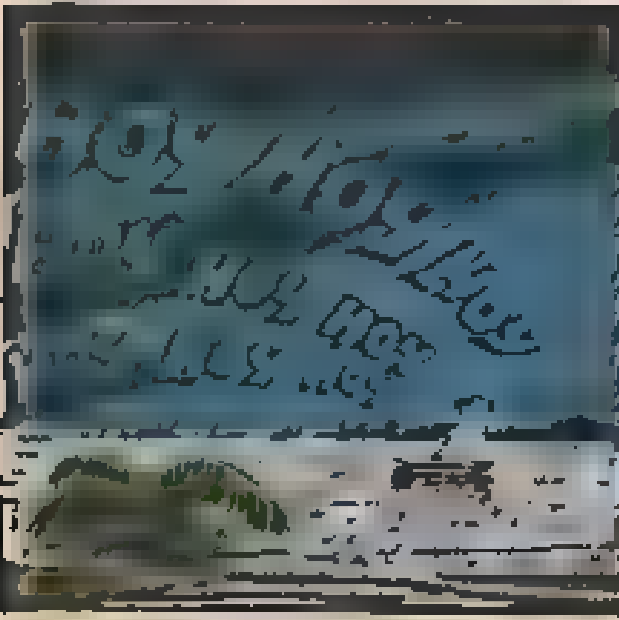
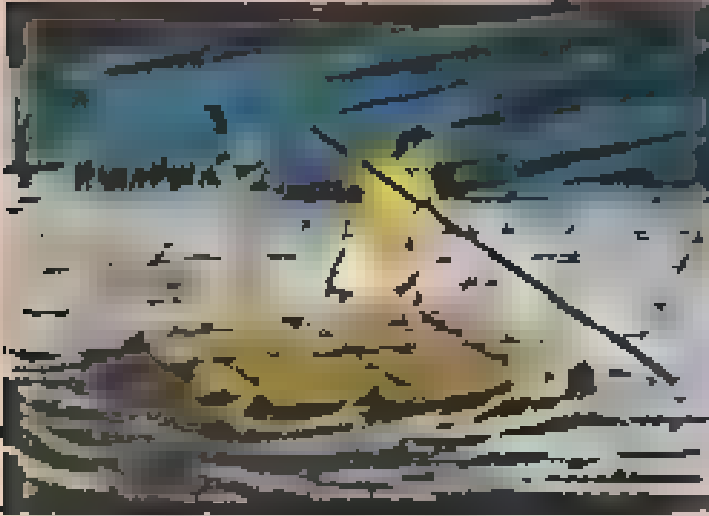
ON THE TERRACE

WHEN
WILL AMMA
COME ?

HE'LL
BE BACK
SOON.
CHILD



MEANWHILE, GULLA WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP HIS RAFT STEADY ON THE SWIRLING WATERS.



ON THE TERRACE —



AYYA'S WIFE SMILED AT THE YOD OF HER VOICE



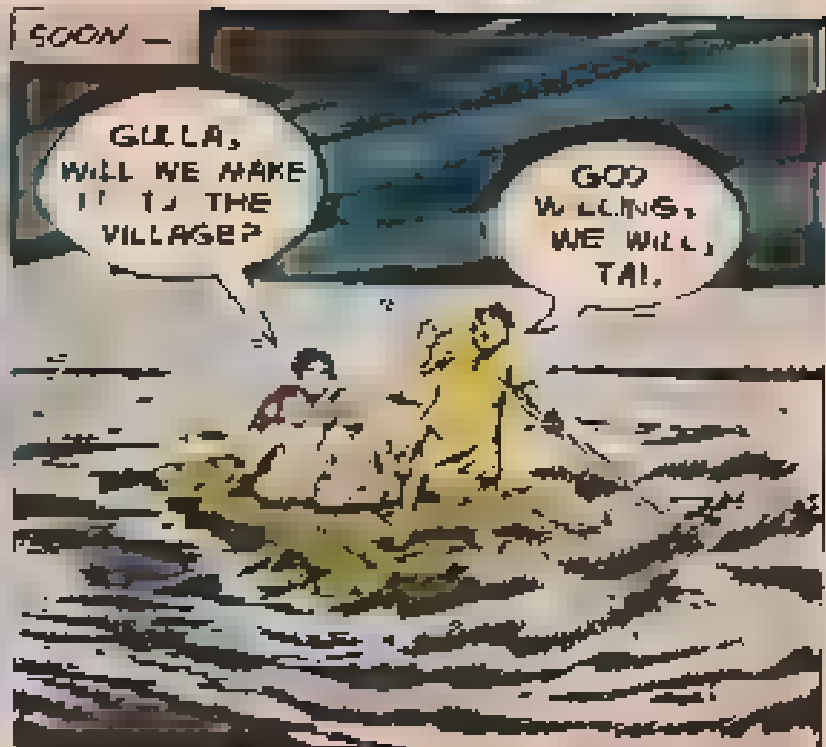
SHE FLASHED THE TORCH.



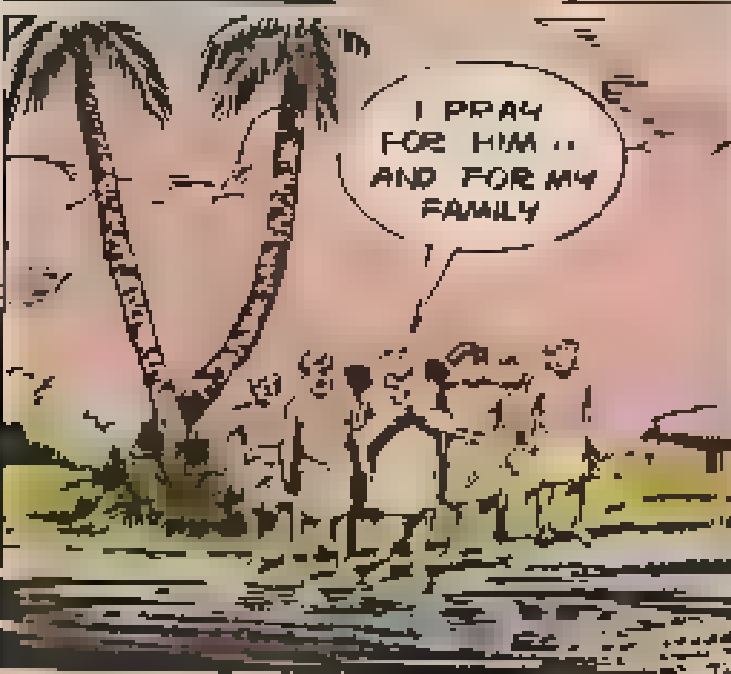
AND SOON GULLA'S RAFT REACHED ITS DESTINATION



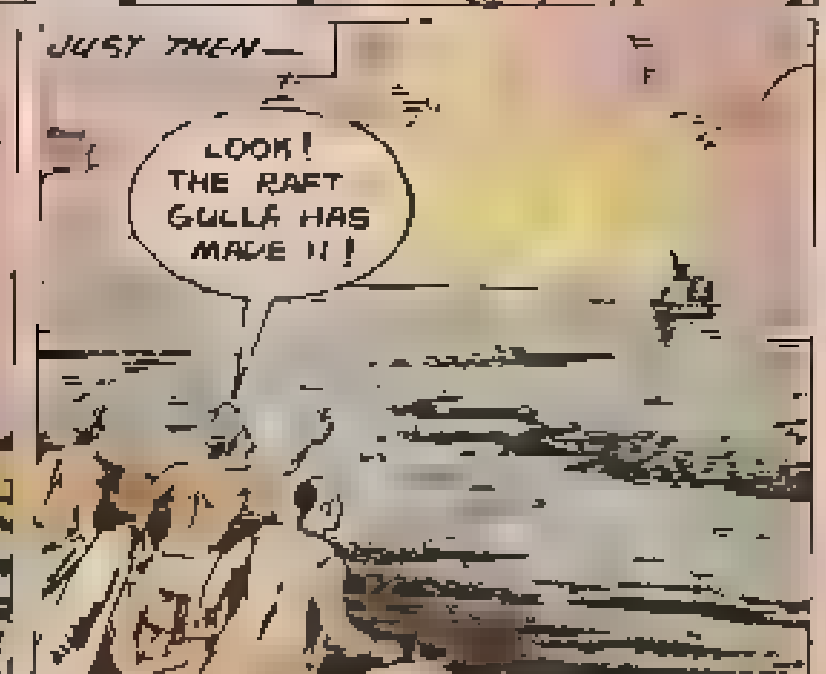
SOON —



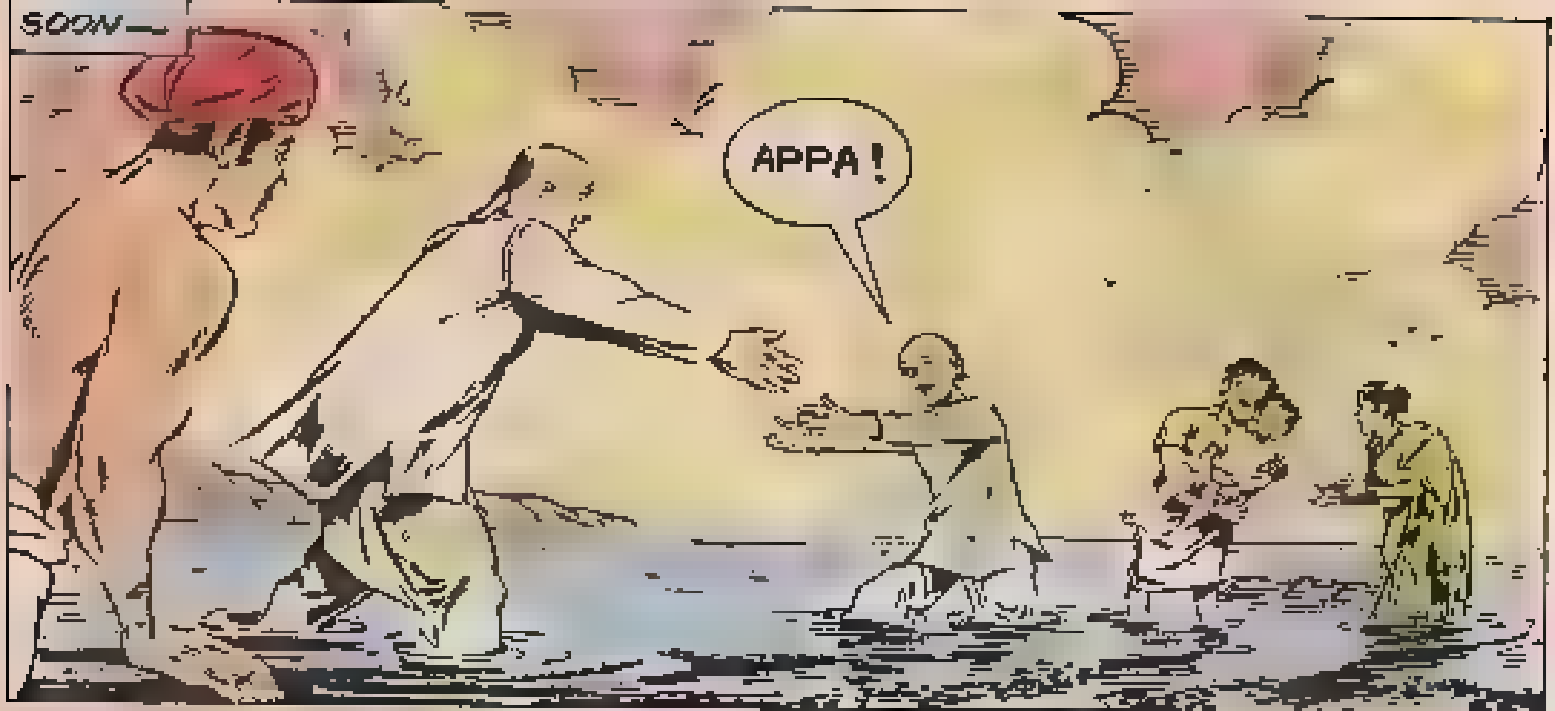
MEANWHILE RAYU HAD REACHED THE VILLAGE



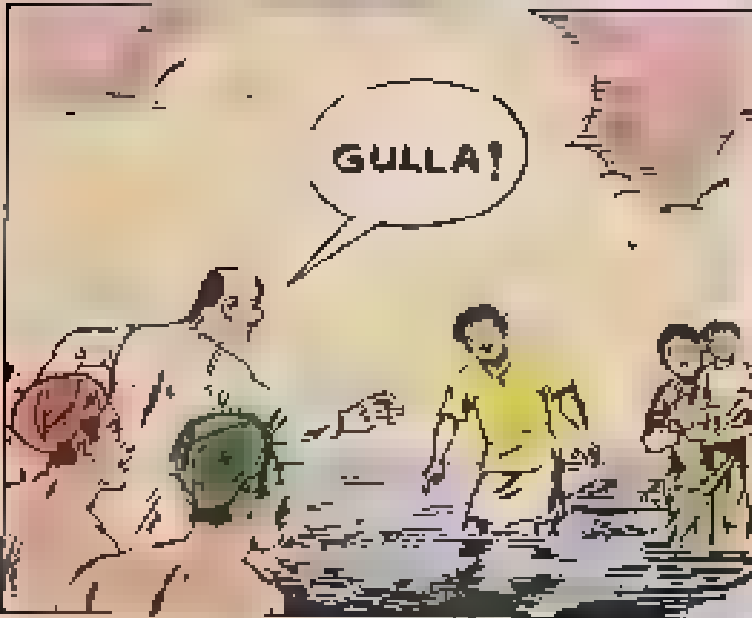
JUST THEN —



SOON—



GULLA!



THE NEXT MOMENT THE TWO
WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS

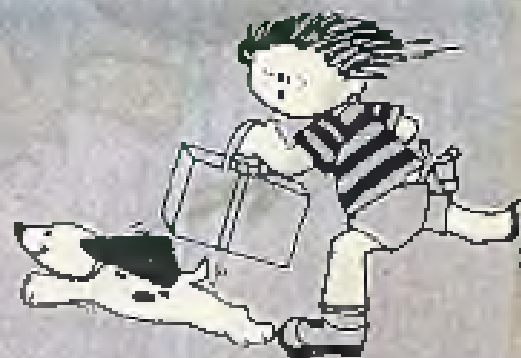


THE VILLAGERS BUILT A NEW HOUSE FOR AYYU, GULLA BECAME AYYU'S RIGHT
HAND AND THE VILLAGERS BEGAN TO WORSHIP MAARIAMMA WITH FLOWERS.





*"All aboard, all aboard
My engine's on its way
We'll take Gems across the land
We'll have fun every day!"*



Got a moment? Get a Gem!

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Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems!



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HAVE YOU
HEARD THE
LATEST?

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MAGAZINE FROM
THE
HOUSE OF
ANAR CHITRA KATHA

READY,
STEADY, GO!



WITH

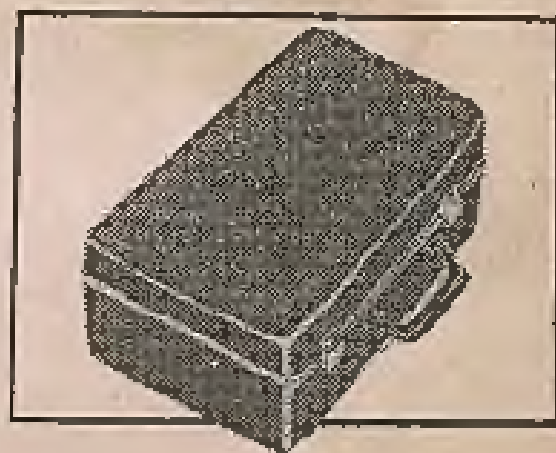
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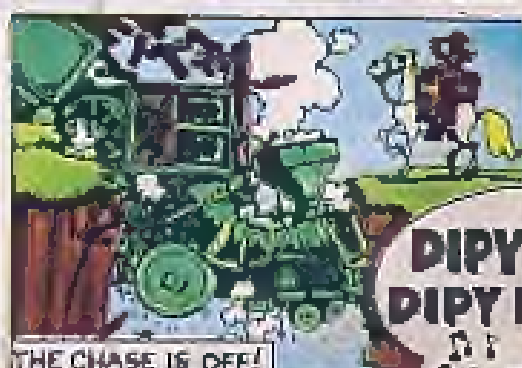
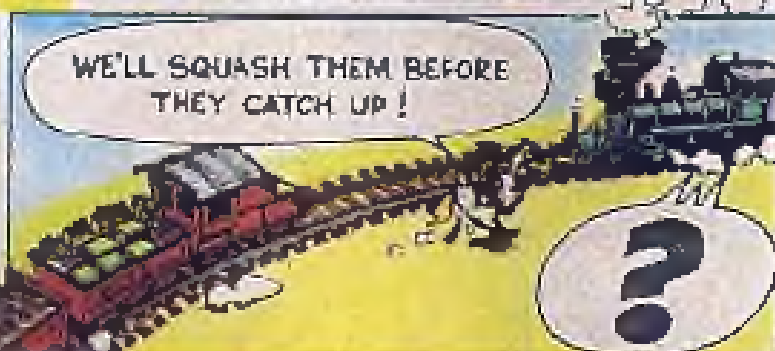


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